

Claims in the Amendment

[Received by the International Bureau on April 19, 2001  
(19. 04. 01): claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 11 in the first  
application were amended; other claims were unchanged. (2  
5 pages)]

1. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an  
aggregcanase activity, which comprises an amino acid  
sequence of from the 213th position to the 583rd position  
of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or  
10 which consists of an amino acid sequence of from the 213th  
position to the 583rd position of the amino acid sequence  
represented by SEQ ID NO:1 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid  
residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted.

2. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an  
15 aggregcanase activity, which comprises an amino acid  
sequence of from the 1st position to the 583rd position of  
an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or which  
consists of an amino acid sequence of from the 1st position  
to the 583rd position of the amino acid sequence  
20 represented by SEQ ID NO:1 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid  
residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted.

3. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an  
aggregcanase activity, which consists of an amino acid  
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, an amino acid sequence  
25 of from the 1st position to the 687th position of an amino  
acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, an amino acid

TOOKE REC'D BY PTO 10/009332

TOP SECRET EEC/EEA

sequence of from the 1st position to the 583rd position of  
the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, an  
amino acid sequence of from the 213th position to the 950th  
position of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID  
5 NO:1, an amino acid sequence of from the 213th position to  
the 687th position of the amino acid sequence represented  
by SEQ ID NO:1 or an amino acid sequence of from the 213th  
position to the 583rd position of the amino acid sequence  
represented by SEQ ID NO:1, or any one of these sequences  
10 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid residues are substituted,  
deleted and/or inserted.

4. (after amendment) A gene which encodes an amino  
acid sequence of the metalloprotease having an aggrecanase  
activity described in any one of claims 1 to 3.

15 5. A vector which comprises the gene described in  
claim 4.

6. A host cell which comprises the vector described  
in claim 5.

7. (after amendment) A method for producing the  
20 metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in  
any one of claims 1 to 3, which comprises using the host  
cell described in claim 6.

8. (after amendment) An antibody against the  
metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in  
25 any one of claims 1 to 3.

*SAC*

9. (after amendment) A method for screening a substance capable of inhibiting an aggrecanase activity of a metalloprotease, which comprises allowing the metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in 5 any one of claims 1 to 3 to contact with a compound to be tested.

10. (after amendment) A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting degradation of proteoglycans, which comprises a substance capable of inhibiting the metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in 10 any one of claims 1 to 3, as an active ingredient.

11. (after amendment) A gene represented by SEQ ID NO:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31, or a gene represented by SEQ ID NO:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31 wherein from 15 1 to 10 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted, which has a joint disease aggrecanase promoter activity.

*Added*